

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02638 071737Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN PO US IMF
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - IMF NEGOTIATIONS, LAJES AGREEMENT

1. IMF: MEDIA THIS WEEK CARRIED HEAVY COVERAGE ON RENEWED
GOP-IMF NEGOTIATIONS, PRINCIPALLY GIVING SPECULATION
ABOUT DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN TWO SIDES. COMMUNIST PAPERS
HAVE BEEN USING KNOWN POINTS OF CONTENTION BETWEEN GOP
AND IMF TO CREATE WHAT THEY TERM "A RUPTURE" IN
NEGOTIATIONS. FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE IN LEADING CIRCULATION,
PRO-GOP "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" APRIL 7 WAS "VITOR
CONSTANCIO IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: THE GOVERNMENT IS
NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT JUST ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF."
QUOTING FINANCE MINISTER CONSTANCIO IN HIS PRESENTATION
DURING A BUDGET DEBATE, PAPER ALSO REPORTED THESE
STATEMENTS:"...(IN THE NEGOTIATIONS) IT HAS
ALREADY BEEN POSSIBLE TO MAKE SOME GAINS AND TO CLEAR
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SOME MORE ROOM FOR MANEUVERING." ARTICLE SAID
CONSTANCIO EMPHASIZED THE "DIFFICULTIES IN DELAYING
AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF." OTHER PAPERS REPORTED
APRIL 6 THAT PRIME MINISTER SOARES, IN AN INFORMAL
CONVERSATION WITH REPORTERS, HAD SAID THAT THERE WERE
PROBLEMS WITH THE IMF NEGOTIATION AND THAT THE WHOLE
ISSUE MIGHT BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY BEFORE THE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. LAJES BASE: "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" APRIL 7
PUBLISHED PAGE EIGHT ARTICLE HEADLINED, "REGARDING
COMPENSATION FOR LAJES BASE: U.S. WANTS TO SEE
ALL OF ITS ASSISTANCE IN CIVILIAN AREA USED IN THE
AZORES, ACCORDING TO ALVARO MONJARDINO."
ATTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO MATERIAL PUBLISHED IN A
FALL RIVER MASS., NEWSPAPER WHICH HAD INTERVIEWED
MONJARDINO, "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" QUOTED HIM AS
SAYING U.S. ASSISTANCE "COULD TAKE THE FORM OF
FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID FOR THE CREATION IN THE
ARCHIPELAGO OF A DEVELOPMENT BANK, PORT
CONSTRUCTION, PLUS AGRICULTURAL, AGRO-INDUSTRIAL
AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY." PAPER ADDED:
"MONJARDINO, WHO WAS IN THE U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN
A SEMINAR ON AZOREAN AFFAIRS, ALSO SAID THAT
ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE NATO TROOPS CONSTITUTED
THE OTHER PART OF WASHINGTON'S PROPOSAL."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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TAGS: SOPN, PO, US, IMF
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